

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A picture encoding apparatus comprising:
arithmetic encoding means for applying arithmetic encoding to an input picture to
generate an encoded codestream;
splitting means for splitting said encoded codestream into a plurality of layers;
packet generating means for generating a plurality of packets from one layer to
another;
error correction encoding means for applying error correction encoding to data of a
header ~~and/or~~ a packet or packets of a predetermined ~~one or more~~number of layers; and
embedding means for embedding [[an]] respective inspection ~~symbol~~symbols, of the
header or the packet or packets of the predetermined number of layers, generated by said
error correction encoding means in a predetermined packet or packets of at least a layer
different from the predetermined number of layers.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended). The picture encoding apparatus according to claim 1
wherein said predetermined ~~one or more~~number of layers includes at least an uppermost
layer.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented). The picture encoding apparatus according to claim 1
wherein said embedding means substitutes said inspection symbol for either data of said
packet or packets of a lower layer, a main header or a COM marker of a tile part header, or a
portion of a predetermined code block or a newly added encoding pass.

Claims 4-6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Previously Presented). The picture encoding apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said error correction encoding means sets the subject entity of the error correction encoding depending on an error rate of a communication channel on which said encoded codestream is transmitted.

Claims 8-9 (Cancelled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended). A picture encoding method comprising:
an arithmetic encoding step of applying arithmetic encoding to an input picture to generate an encoded codestream;
a splitting step of splitting said encoded codestream into a plurality of layers;
a packet generating step of generating a plurality of packets from one layer to another;
an error correction encoding step of applying error correction encoding to data of a header ~~and/or a packet or packets of a predetermined one or more number of layers~~; and
an embedding step of embedding ~~[[an]] respective inspection symbols, of the header or the packet or packets of the predetermined number of layers, generated by said error correction encoding step in [[the]] a predetermined packet or packets of at least a layer different from the predetermined number of layers.~~

Claims 11-12 (Cancelled).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended). A picture decoding apparatus supplied with an encoded codestream and decoding the input encoded codestream to restore an input picture, said encoded codestream being ~~such a one obtained on by applying an~~ arithmetic coding to the

input picture to generate an encoded codestream, splitting the encoded codestream into a plurality of layers, generating a plurality of packets from one layer to another, applying error correction coding to data of a header and/or a packet or packets of ~~one or more~~ a number of preset layers, and ~~on~~ embedding an respective inspection ~~symbol~~symbols generated ~~on this in~~ the error correction coding in a predetermined packet or packets of at least a layer different from the number of preset layers, said apparatus comprising:

analysis means for analyzing said input encoded codestream;

extraction means for extracting said respective inspection ~~symbol~~symbols from said predetermined packet or packets;

error correcting decoding means for applying error correction and decoding to data of the header and/or a packet or packets of ~~one or more~~ the number of preset layers, using said respective inspection ~~symbol~~symbols extracted from the layer different from the preset layers; and

decoding means for decoding the encoded codestream following the error correction and decoding.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended). The picture decoding apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said predetermined lowerdifferent layer at least includes ~~the~~ a lowermost layer.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended). The picture decoding apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said input encoded codestream has data of a packet or packets of said predetermined lowerdifferent layer replaced by said inspection ~~symbol~~symbols; and

wherein said extraction means extracts said inspection ~~symbol~~symbols from said packet or packets of the predetermined lowerdifferent layer, a main header or a COM marker of a tile part header, or a portion of a predetermined code block or a newly added encoding

pass, and discards the data of a packet or packets of the ~~lower~~different layer, or sets the data of a packet or packets of the ~~lower~~different layer all to zero.

Claims 16-17 (Cancelled).

Claim 18 (Currently Amended). A picture decoding method in which an input encoded codestream is supplied and the supplied encoded codestream is decoded to restore an input picture, said encoded codestream being ~~such a one obtained~~ enby applying an arithmetic coding to the input picture to generate an encoded codestream, splitting the encoded codestream into a plurality of layers, generating a plurality of packets from one layer to another, applying error correction coding to data of a header ~~and/or~~ a packet or packets of ~~one or more~~a number of preset layers, and ~~en~~-embedding anrespective inspection ~~symbols~~symbols of the header or the packet or packets of the number of preset layers, generated ~~on this~~in the error correction coding in a predetermined packet or packets of a predetermined ~~lower~~different layer, said method comprising:

an analysis step of analyzing said input encoded codestream;

an extraction step of extracting said respective inspection ~~symbols~~symbols from said predetermined packet or packets;

an error correcting decoding step of applying error correction and decoding to data of ~~at~~the header ~~and/or~~ ~~at~~the packet or packets of ~~one or more~~the number of preset layers, using said respective inspection ~~symbols~~symbols; and

a decoding step of decoding the encoded codestream following the error correction and decoding.

Claims 19-40 (Cancelled).